

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03284 112101Z
ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 IO-14
ACDA-12 SCS-06 CA-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06
OMB-01 EB-08 HA-05 USSS-00 /112 W
-----079382 112107Z /65

Z O 112040Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1831
DIA WASHDC FLASH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3284

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, IS, LE
SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK

REF: TEL AVIV 3281

1. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON TERRORIST ATTACK FROM SOURCE IN AN OFFICIAL ISRAELI SERVICE.
2. THIRTEEN TERRORISTS WERE LAUNCHED ON MISSION FROM AS YET UNKNOWN BASE IN LEBANON IN TWO SMALL RUBBER BOATS. EN ROUTE ONE BOAT OVERTURNED AND TWO TERRORISTS WERE LOST. BOAT WAS RIGHTED AND 11 TERRORISTS LANDED ON BEACH NEAR MA'AGAN MIKHAEL. UNIT CARRIED LARGE AMOUNT OF AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES.
3. GROUP MOVED UP BEACH TO COASTAL ROAD WHERE THEY ATTACKED ONE BUS AND A TAXI WHICH WERE STANDING ON SIDE OF ROAD. UNKNOWN NUMBER OF WOUNDED FROM THIS
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INCIDENT HAVE BEEN EVACUATED TO HOSPITALS IN HAIFA AND HADERA.

4. GROUP THEN HALTED AN EGGED COMPANY BUS CONTAINING 32 ADULTS AND 31 CHILDREN WHO HAD BEEN ON A HOLIDAY OUTING AND WERE EN ROUTE HOME TO HAIFA. BUS WAS FIRED ON AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF PERSONS WERE KILLED AND

WOUNDED. TERRORISTS TURNED BUS AROUND AND DROVE SOUTHWARD TOWARD TEL AVIV. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW MANY HOSTAGES WERE ON BOARD.

4. EN ROUTE SOUTHWARD EFFORTS WERE MADE BY TWO SMALL POLICE UNITS TO HALT BUS. ONE UNIT WAS NEAR HADERS; THE OTHER LOCATION WAS UNKNOWN TO SOURCE.

5. BUS WAS FINALLY HALTED AT ROADBLOCK ESTABLISHED NEAR THE TEL AVIV COUNTRY CLUB JUST NORTH OF CITY. A FIRE-FIGHT ENSUED BETWEEN TERRORISTS, POLICE AND ARMY UNITS AT ROADBLOCK. APPROXIMATELY TEN MINUTES AFTER FIRING STARTED BUS BLEW UP.

6. TWO OR THREE TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED AND ARE NOW UNDERGOING INTERROGATION. AMONG TERRORISTS WAS ONE WOMAN WHO WAS BADLY WOUNDED AND DIED SHORTLY AFTER REACHING HOSPITAL. AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF TERRORISTS WAS KILLED. IT IS BELIEVED THREE OR FOUR ARE UNACCOUNTED FOR. ENTIRE AREA NORTH OF CITY WAS CORDONED OFF AND BEING SEARCHED BY ARMY UNITS, POLICE AND SPECIAL ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT.

7. GENERAL GAZIT'S OFFICE HAS JUST PHONED TO SAY THAT CASUALTY FIGURE HAS RISEN TO 30 DEAD. AUTHORITIES ARE STILL ESTIMATING 70 PERSONS WOUNDED.
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VIETS

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Message Attributes

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